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Butler Building,

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MEDICAL DEFENSE RULES AND THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT.

An unusual feature of the recent annual meeting of the House of Delegates at Coronado was the attendance of the General Attorney for the Society, and an address by him upon the subject of the work of the Legal Department. The Council, in view of the increase in volume of the malpractice claims and the growing complexity and importance of this branch of the Society's activities, requested the attendance of the head of that department in order to bring the members more closely in touch with its functions and activities. Unquestionably this step has been productive of great benefit to our organization. Heretofore interest in legal affairs has been confined too closely to the particular member involved and the necessity for, and the scope and effectiveness of, this bureau has not been appreciated by the members at large.

Pursuing the same policy, the Law Department at the direction of the Council has revised and re-stated the Medical Defense Rules, and a copy of these rules has been sent to the Secretaries of each component County Society. It is earnestly hoped that these rules will be read at meetings of each County Society and that each member of the Society will thoroughly acquaint himself with the provisions thereof. In discussing and considering these rules it should be borne in mind that they embody the experience of those who have had charge of the Society's affairs for many years and that they represent the combined judgment of men trained to handle matters of this type, having in mind always the limitations and exigencies which confront

administrative officials in an organization such as ours.

It is furthermore suggested that if a rule does not appeal to any individual member as being a proper one or appears subject to criticism in any manner, that that member's best interests and the best interests of the Society should lead him to write to the Secretary's office with his suggestion or criticism, so that it can be acted upon, possibly producing a better statement or proper modification of a given rule. Or the experience of the Council when given to the member in answer to such comment may cause the member to change his mind as to the justness of the criticism. By such means we shall secure co-operation and mutual help.

At the earnest request of the Legal Department we wish to emphasize the necessity of the strict compliance by each member with each and every one of the Medical Defense Rules. They number seven in all; the language is very plain, and, as our Chief Counsel said in his address to the Delegates, every member is interested because he can never know what day will make the Legal Department and the Medical Defense Rules matters of intense personal moment to him.

THE INDEMNITY DEFENSE FUND.

The trustees of the Indemnity Defense Fund organized as a board at the recent State meeting. The Council, after several months of intensive work, has adopted the rules and regulations governing the fund. The Secretary of each of the County Societies has been furnished with a sample copy for inspection by the members. We urge upon each County Society that the communication from the Secretary's office on this subject be placed before the members of each respective County Society at an early date.

With the fund now established, its administration fixed, and the conditions of joining definitely determined and settled, every member should give this subject his thoughtful attention. We will have more to say upon this question in the next issue.

TETHELIN PRESENTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BY DOCTOR ROBERTSON.

Dr. T. Brailsford Robertson, Professor of Biochemistry and Pharmacy in the University of California, has donated to the Regents of the University of California his patents for the growth-controlling substance, Tethelin, which he has succeeded in isolating from the anterior lobe of the pituitary body and which has been employed to accelerate repair in slowly healing wounds. The proceeds which may accrue from the sale or lease of these patents are to constitute a fund which will be entitled, "The University of California Foundation for International Medical Research," and which will be expended in the furtherance of medical research, preferably research in the physiology, chemistry and pathology of growth.